Drug smuggling by an Army Major

946 SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India of 1st January, 1989 about the arrest of an Army Major for carrying drugs; and

(b) if so, what action Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per report received from the Nagaland State Police, on 14-11-1988, 2.350 kg. of white powder, suspected to be heroin, was seized from an Army jeep. Three persons, including an Army Major, have been arrested for appropriate action under the law.

Import of felts and wires

947. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to discourage the import of felts and wires and allow concessional rate of import duty on the machines required by the felt and wire industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Evasion of excise duty by Mohan Meakins Limited Ghaziabad (U.P.)

948. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mohan Meakins Limited, Ghaziabad (U.P.) are evading payment of excise duty and other corporate taxes to the tune of crores of rupees annually;

(b) whether the Enforcement Wing of the Central Excise Department conducted raids at the premises of Mohan Meakins Limited, Ghaziabad and other places in the country during the last three years; and

(c) if so, what are the details of raids conducted and details of incriminating documents, etc. seized and further action contemplated by Government against Mohan Meakins Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No such evasion of Central Excise duty|Corporate tax by Mohan Meakins Limited, Ghaziabad (U.P.) has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling on borders

949. SHRI YALLA SESHI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of narcotics, gold worth crores of rupees and foreign arms in the border areas of Punjab is going on unabated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that killings in Tripura and the infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals in the North-Eastern sector and in West Bengal and Bihar too are posing a threat;

(c) whether the infiltration from Pakistan into Gujarat has caused 90 per

cent increase in Muslim population in Kutch;

(d) whether the smuggling in Rajasthan across Indo-Pak border has reached alarming proportions; and

(e) if the answer to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Some smuggling of narcotics, gold and arms are taking place through Punjab border. The Government are taking effective anti-smuggling measures for apprehending the smuggled goods and for plugging loopholes.

(b) No killings involving infiltrators have taken place on Tripura-Bangladesh border during the year 1989 (upto February). During this period 128 infiltrators were apprehended by BSF on this border and 3877 infiltrators were apprehended on West Bengal border. Bihar does not have any international border with Bangladesh.

(c) The Government have no reports to indicate increase of 90 per cent of Muslim population in Kutch through infiltration.

(d) Though there is smuggling through Rajasthan border, due to anti-smuggling measures taken by BSF, there is no information about alarming increase of smuggling.

(e) Security forces have been strengthened on borders with more manpower, additional border outposts, observation post towers, sophisticated equipment and vehicles for intensive patrolling.

Proposal to set up an office of S.C.I.C.I. in Delhi

950. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an office of S.C.I.C.I. in Delhi;

(b) if not, what measures are proposed to be taken for better coordination between S.C.I.C.I. and concerned Ministries like the Ministry of Food Processing Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) SICCI's Board of Directors include representatives from Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, and Food Processing Industries. Further, SCICI is associated with certain Committee of Government of India concerning sectors connected with SCICI's sphere of operations.

Export of Shrimps

951. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of various measures proposed by MPEDA to ensure supply of sufficient shrimps for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): The measures taken by the MPEDA to ensure supply of sufficient shrimps for export purposes includes promotion of shrimp farming for augmenting production of Cultured Shrimps, setting up of shrimp hatcheries and seed banks, assisting the farmers in site selection and preparation of project reports besides extending technical assistance in farm construction and drawing up action plans for shrimp farming in some maritime states.

Projects undertaken through World Bank Assistance

952. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects currently being undertaken with the World Bank assistance and how far the progress has been achieved in each case; and

(b) the details of such projects in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh?